

Here are some suggestions on how to prepare your property in times of bushfire. For more detailed information on being prepared for bushfires, contact the NSW Rural Fire Services Hotline 1800 679 737 (1800 NSW RFS) or [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

## YOUR HOUSE

### Protect your house from ember attack.

- > Keep gutters free of leaves, twigs and bark.
- > Keep combustible materials (piles of wood, boxes, hanging baskets, timber furniture) and flammable liquids well away from the house.
- > Connect heat resistant hoses with wide spray nozzles that will reach all sides of the house. If possible, install a roof sprinkler system and suitable pool pump.
- > Install an appropriate heat resistant rain water tank (see NSW RFS website for more information).
- > Fit wire screens and shutters to windows, doors and vents.
- > Remove fibre doormats and enclose underfloor areas.
- > Plan for the possibility of leaving your home in an event of a bushfire – i.e. what items would you need to take.

## YOUR GARDEN

- > Use the Council's green waste collection services to remove vegetation around your home. Never dump garden waste, such as grass clippings, dead leaves, palm fronds and other vegetation into the bushland reserve as this creates extra fuel for fire.
- > Clear ground fuel such as dead leaves and twigs from around your house. Keep grass short. Thin out the undergrowth around fences. Sticks thicker than your arm are not considered hazardous.
- > If you have concerns about tree branches overhanging your house, contact your Council's Tree Preservation staff for advice.

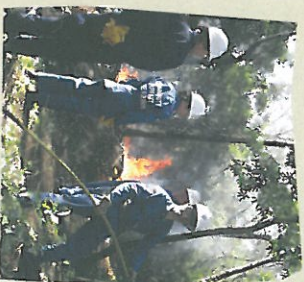
## COMMUNITY FIRE UNITS (CFUs)

These are teams of local residents trained to safeguard their homes during a bushfire prior to the arrival of the NSW Fire Brigades. CFUs are not expected to fight raging fires. Made up of 6 to 12 members, each CFU initially receives 20 hours of training from the NSW Fire Brigades. Local fire station staff provide regular and ongoing training.

CFU team members learn about:

- > Bushfire behaviour;
- > Safe 'housekeeping' and gardening practices for prevention of fires;
- > Planning and preparing for bushfires;
- > Operating and handling fire fighting equipment;
- > Mop up operations.

For more information email the NSW Fire Brigades at [CFU.NSWFB@fire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CFU.NSWFB@fire.nsw.gov.au) or contact your local Fire Station.



## MAINTAINING BUSHLAND RESERVES

Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Ryde and Willoughby Councils manage 620 hectares of publicly owned bushland reserves. Residents living next to the bush need to take active steps to minimise the potential risks of bushfires to lives and property.

**Hazard reduction work in bushland helps to minimise the risks of spreading bushfires. Council uses a range of practices to reduce bush fire hazards.**

### HAND CLEARING

Bush regeneration by Council staff, contractors and Bushcare volunteers helps to reduce fire hazard by removing weeds and debris from around bushland edges. Lantana and non-native vines are controlled as they can become fuel ladders and carry a ground fire up into the tree canopy. Indigenous trees of low flammability, such as Sweet Pittosporum, are often retained around bushland edges to act as ember screens in the event of a bushfire.

Residents can actively look after nearby bushland by joining the Bushcare program. Bushcare activities can help reduce bushfire hazard in the short term while working towards the long term ecological management of bushland. Council provides technical advice and training to all Bushcare volunteers. For more information about Bushcare, contact your Council's Bushland Management staff.

### HAZARD REDUCTION BURNS

Burns are carried out by NSW Fire Brigades and other trained and authorized agencies. Weather conditions determine when burns can be conducted – most days of the year are not suitable (too dry, hot, windy or wet).



# BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

in Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Ryde and Willoughby Council areas.

## THE BIGGER PICTURE

In NSW, communities, Councils and government agencies work together to manage the risk of bush fires damaging houses and property and to sustain natural ecosystems.

The 1994 and 2001 bushfires in the Lane Cove River valley occurred under extreme conditions of high temperatures and strong north-westerly winds.

Since the 1994 bushfires, a District Bushfire Management Committee has been established for the region. Council staff meet regularly with officers of the NSW Fire Brigades and National Parks and Wildlife Service. The committee has prepared a Bushfire Operations Plan and a Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP). The BFRMP outlines strategies to:

- > Reduce hazard by identifying priority areas for fire breaks and 'fuel reduction' including slashing and burning;

- > Reduce ignitions through implementing fire bans, land closures, arson investigation and public access restrictions;
- > Reduce risk through community education and building and development controls;
- > Implement early fire detection systems and coordinated fire suppression operations.

Most of the bushfires occurring in Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Ryde and Willoughby Council areas over the last decade have had little impact on life or property. In these areas bushfires can be extinguished quickly because of the small size of bushland reserves, the presence of wetter types of vegetation, easy access to the reserves from roads or through neighbouring properties and the short response time of the NSW Fire Brigades.

# WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IN TIMES OF BUSHFIRE

## HANDY NUMBERS

When Bushfire approaches your home  
**000**

Total Fire Ban Days  
**1800 679 737**  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

Major Road Closures  
**132 701**



CITY OF RYDE

HUNTERS HILL COUNCIL